

1. A gasket for a pipe joint between two pipe ends, the gasket comprising:

a sealing portion for producing a seal between the two pipe ends and

a gripping portion for gripping at least one of the pipe ends to hold the gasket in position,

wherein the sealing portion and the gripping portion are formed integrally.
2. A gasket as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gripping portion is configured to self-center the gasket about a pipe bore.
3. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gripping portion comprises at least two resilient structures defining bearing surfaces for gripping a pipe end.
4. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gripping portion includes two T-shaped resilient structures.
5. A gasket as claimed in claim 4, wherein the T-shaped resilient structures are spaced by approximately 180° or 120° about the gasket.
6. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gripping portion includes four or six arms spaced about the circumference of the gasket, each arm including a bearing surface for gripping a pipe end.
7. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in claim 1, further comprising means for applying a pre-stress to the gripping portion so that the gripping portion applies a greater gripping force during use.

8. A gasket as claimed in claim 7, wherein the means for applying a pre-stress comprises at least one member held between the sealing portion and the gripping portion.

9. A gasket as claimed in claim 8, wherein the or each member is positioned by means of lugs formed as part of the gasket.

10. A gasket as claimed in claim 9, wherein the lugs are offset on both sides of the or each member.

11. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in claim 8, wherein the or each member is manufactured from metal and acts as a stop between the pipe ends during use.

12. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in claim 11, wherein the or each member is a metal wire.

13. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in claim 8, wherein the member extends through an arc of more than 270°.

14. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

locating means comprising a plurality of protrusions spaced about the gasket for positioning the gasket relative to the pipe ends.

15. A gasket for a pipe joint between two pipe ends, the pipe ends defining at least one annular recess for receiving a portion of the gasket, wherein the gasket includes:

a sealing portion for producing a seal between the two pipe ends and locating means for positioning the gasket relative to the pipe ends,

wherein the locating means comprise a plurality of protrusions spaced about the gasket for locating in the annular recess of a pipe end to position correctly the gasket relative to the pipe ends.

16. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in claim 15, wherein the sealing portion and the locating means are formed integrally.

17. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in claim 15, wherein the locating means are configured to self-center the gasket about a pipe bore.

18. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in claim 15, wherein the locating means comprise at least three protrusions defining bearing surfaces for seating in an annular recess in a pipe end.

19. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in claim 15, wherein the locating means include ten or more protrusions.

20. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in claim 15, wherein the protrusions are bumps, truncated cones or stipples.

21. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in claim 15, wherein the protrusions have flat tops.

22. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in claim 15, wherein the protrusions extend from both sides of the gasket.

23. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in claim 15, wherein each protrusion is substantially round in plan.

24. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in claim 15, wherein each protrusion is substantially the same.

25. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in claim 15, wherein the gasket is manufactured from plastics material.

26. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in claim 25, wherein the manufacture is achieved by molding or casting.

27. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in claim 25, wherein the plastics material is an engineering plastics material, such as PEEK.

28. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in claim 15, wherein the sealing portion comprises a bore surface for alignment parallel with a pipe bore and an adjacent raised surface perpendicular to the bore for forming a seal between pipe ends.

Please cancel claim 29.

30. (Amended) A pipe joint comprising:

two pipe ends defined by ferrules,

a clamp acting on the ferrules to close the joint

and a gasket comprising:

a sealing portion for producing a seal between the two pipe ends and

a gripping portion for gripping at least one of the pipe ends to hold the gasket in position,

wherein the sealing portion and the gripping portion are formed integrally.

31. A pipe joint as claimed in claim 30, wherein each ferrule includes an annular recess for receiving protrusions of the locating means.

32. (Amended) A pipe joint as claimed in claim 30, wherein the gasket includes a metal stop against which the ferrules bear to prevent overtightening of the clamp.

33. A pipe joint as claimed in claim 32, wherein the ferrules contact the sealing portion of the gasket before the stop, during clamping, thereby resulting in a sealing pressure being applied to the gasket.

34. (Amended) A pipe joint as claimed in claim 30, wherein resiliency of the ferrules is utilized to apply a continual pressure between the ferrules and the sealing portion of the gasket following clamping.

Please cancel claim 35.

36. (New) A pipe joint comprising:

two pipe ends defined by ferrules,

a clamp acting on the ferrules to close the joint

and a gasket comprising:

a sealing portion for producing a seal between the two pipe ends and locating means for positioning the gasket relative to the pipe ends,

wherein the locating means comprise a plurality of protrusions spaced about the gasket for locating in the annular recess of a pipe end to position correctly the gasket relative to the pipe ends.

37. (New) A pipe joint as claimed in claim 36, wherein each ferrule includes an annular recess for receiving protrusions of the locating means.

38. (New) A pipe joint as claimed in claim 36, wherein the gasket includes a metal stop against which the ferrules bear to prevent overtightening of the clamp.

39. (New) A pipe joint as claimed in claim 38, wherein the ferrules contact the sealing portion of the gasket before the stop, during clamping, thereby resulting in a sealing pressure being applied to the gasket.